

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORTTOPIC 10th PS Brigade in Volary

EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED

1. Prior to 29 March 1954, the headquarters of the 10th PS Brig was stationed at Volary (N 49/Q 55) and was subordinate directly to a PS headquarters in Prague. Officers of the unit included Major Vins (fnu), brigade commander, Major Zemlicka (fnu), political officer, and Captain Toman (fnu), chief of staff. The unit included one PS battalion which was stationed at Kvilda (Aussergefild, N 50/Q 26), another PS battalion which was stationed at Stozec (Tusset, N 49/Q 44), and an NCO school which was stationed at Volary. Prior to 30 January 1954, basic training for recruits was held in a castle near Libejovice (N 50/Q 77).
2. Units subordinate to the PS battalion in Stozec included the 12th PS Co which was stationed at Nove Udoli (Neuthal, N 49/Q 44), and the 14th PS Co which was located on the road which leads south from Nove Udoli. Officers of the battalion headquarters included Senior Lieutenant Malek (fnu) and Senior Lieutenant Blychta (fnu), whose functions were unknown.
3. Prior to 3 March 1954, the 12th PS Co, which was quartered in a two-story brick building on the west side of the road to Stozec in Nove Udoli, numbered 55 men, was organized into three infantry squads each of which had 10 to 12 men, one heavy machine gun squad, and one dog-handler squad with 5 dogs, and had 5 draft horses. Officers of the unit included Lieutenant Jaroslav Zlatuska, company commander, Lieutenant Susak (fnu), deputy commander, and acting Corporal Meduna, political officer. The mail address of the members of the company was "Pan (Mr) or Soudruh (Comrade) 86/U, Volary". The 14th Co had mail address "86/R Volary". Except for 4 Slovaks, all members of the 12th PS Co were Czechs. The company had 12 model 98-N rifles, 40 model 24 submachine guns, 3 model 36 light machine guns, 1 heavy machine gun, model 4 hand grenades, and signal pistols. Ammunition and weapons which were not used were stored in the basement of the billets. The roof of the quartering building had a telescope with which the almost open terrain of the sector assigned to the company was easily seen.
4. In early March 1954, the 14th PS Co, whose three low quartering buildings were located on a forest clearing about 2 kilometers east of Dreissessel-Berg (hill), numbered 39 men all of whom were Czechs. Officers of the unit included Lieutenant Jaroslav Hruska, company commander, Lieutenant Kotek (fnu), deputy commander, and acting Corporal Rines (fnu), political officer. Enlisted men of the company said that the unit would shortly receive light machine guns for which belted 7.62-mm ammunition was to be used, while 7.92-mm ammunition was fired up to that time.

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5. Prior to late March 1954, soldiers of the 131 through 1933 classes served with the 14th PS Co. [redacted]

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On 28 October 1953, the inductees had to report to the Velke Mezirici (O 50/M 91) recruiting district headquarters where 800 to 1,000 recruits of the 1931 to 1933 classes were assembled. A number was allocated to each recruit. [redacted] about 70 other recruits received number 35. All men were loaded onto buses which formed a convoy and took them to Jihlava (O 50/M 61) where the recruits were divided up and dispatched to various destinations. The 70 men of group 35 came to the PS training camp in the castle near Libejovice where about 500 recruits were gathered from various areas of Czechoslovakia. After undergoing a physical examination there, the men received training uniforms. They were organized into four companies, two of which were subordinate to the PS brigade in Volary, while the superior headquarters of the other two companies was the PS brigade in Ceske Budejovice. The brigades separately trained their recruits.

6. Basic training in Libejovice lasted from 1 November 1953 to 30 January 1954 and started with a three weeks' course of infantry training. This course was followed by special border guard training. For this purpose, wire obstacles of the type used along the border were set up in the castle park. Starting in December 1953, record practices were held at the Pisek (N 50/U 69) target range every two weeks. The trainees fired with rifles, submachine guns and light machine guns at stationary and moving targets, and also practiced with live hand grenades. In February 1954, the recruits were divided up and reassigned to the PS companies. During the instruction, the soldiers were told that in the event of war the PS units would have to prevent the enemy from advancing for at least two hours until the arrival of normal army troops.
7. The EM's morale was affected by the hard discipline since even minor breaches of discipline were severely punished. The service schedules also left little leisure time to the soldiers. Twice a week the men received a three hours' lesson in political indoctrination which aroused limited interest. On the 15th day of every month 174.40 Kcs were paid to PS soldiers who were entrusted with border guard missions. The rations were generally good, but fat, meat and milk were used sparingly. Soldiers on duty wore garrison caps with their normal uniforms. Steel helmets were only used in the event of alarm or during special practices. The enlisted men had no gas masks.
8. The border guard sector assigned to the 12th PS Co extended over 4 or 5 kilometers and included a terrain which was easy to observe. It had four watchtowers, but only the two towers on the boundaries between the 12th PS Co and its adjacent troops were occupied at all times. The right adjacent unit was the 11th PS Co; the left adjacent unit was the 13th PS Co. The soldiers were not supposed to talk with members of other PS companies while they were on duty. The sector assigned to the 12th PS Co which was about 3 kilometers wide and consisted of wooded terrain had three watchtowers which were occupied by sentries at all times. Some trees in the company sectors were equipped with sockets to which telephones could be connected. In this way, the patrols were in a position quickly to contact the company headquarters by means of portable telephones. Sentries and patrols constantly had to watch for enemy aircraft. The battalion in Stozec could call directly for support by the jet fighters stationed at Ceske Budejovice. Five barbed wires of the middle fence of the three-row wire entanglement in the sector of the 12th PS Co were charged with 4,000 volts of electricity. The entanglements in the

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adjacent sectors were also scheduled to be connected to the circuit in the near future. Tread mines buried in the sector of the 12th Co were only known on one spot between the middle wire fence and the wire fence fronting on the enemy side. Other mines were nowhere observed. The wire entanglement had gates in each company sector, for example there were two in the sector of the 12th PS Co. There were also underground passages which were not used in winter.

Comment. The present information on the 10th PS Brig and on discharges and inductions confirms known information.

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